

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 195057

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, ETRD, GB

SUBJ: TRANSGABON RAILROAD

REF: STATE 193897

1. IN DISCUSSION SEPTEMBER 29 WITH DEPT OFFICERS FOREIGN MINISTER RAWIRI CONFIRMED OUR ASSESSMENT OF FOLLOWING GOG PLANS REGARDING THE TRANSGABON: (A) PHASE I AND II ARE TO BE CONSOLIDATED WITH CONSTRUCTION OF THE ENTIRE ROUTE TO BEGIN EARLY 1974; (B) PHASE II WILL RUN FROM BOOUE TO MOANDA AND FRANCEVILLE (BELINGA LEG HAS NOW BEEN TEMPORARILY ABANDONED, IN VIEW LARGE NUMBER OF ARGUMENTS CONCERNING QUALITY AND USE OF THE IRON ORE DEPOSITS); (C) FINANCING FOR PHASE I HAS BEEN SECURED AND PRESENT GOG GLOBE-TROTTERING IS IN SEARCH FOR SECOND PHASE MONEY.

2. THOUGH DEPT AWARE OF VARIOUS STUDIES ON BELINGA PHASE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING COPY OF ANY STUDY TO WHICH
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EMBASSY MIGHT HAVE ACCESS WHICH DISCUSSES FEASIBILITY OF

MOANDA ROUTE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT A GERMAN STUDY OF THE
RAILWAY INCLUDED THIS ALTERNATIVE.

3. RAWIRI MENTIONED THE GOG WAS CONSIDERING DOLS 300
MILLION PACKAGE DEAL WHICH MAY BE WITH TENNESSEE VALLEY
BANCORP AS INDICATED IN REHFUSS-DIGGS LETTER. KISSINGER

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